

November 1957

## Presidents Page

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### Recommended Citation

Egan, William J. (1957) "Presidents Page," *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 24 : No. 4 , Article 1.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol24/iss4/1>

## President's Page

Since the last issue of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY, the Guild of St. Luke of the diocese of Albany, under the sponsorship of the Most Reverend William A. Scully, D.D., has affiliated with the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. This new Guild of 128 enthusiastic Catholic men in medicine was organized on June 19 under the able direction of Rev. Edward O'Malley, moderator. Dr. Arthur Wallingford, already distinguished in Catholic Action and a nationally known gynecologist, was elected president. For the officers and executive board of the Federation, I extend sincere congratulations and a warm welcome.

This early affiliation with the national group provokes readily the question: "Why a Federation?" The Catholic Church is so organized that in each diocese the Bishop is the head of the Church. National grouping must not and cannot interfere with this spiritual division of the Church. While each Guild maintains complete autonomy in local affairs as regards the Federation, permission to organize must be granted by the Ordinary of the diocese it represents. However, with each Guild joined to the other by delegate representation, the small voice of Mobile is magnified by the large sound of Cleveland; the faint ripple of Sioux Falls becomes a cascading water-fall when coupled with the tide of 500 strong from Boston; the minute effort of Dallas becomes a true Texas boaster when the greater New York group proclaims from the rafters of the Waldorf ballroom that we are Catholic men in medicine.

The Guilds as a Federation across the country can accomplish much. A few examples are the following:

1. THE LINACRE QUARTERLY you are now reading, through the editor, Rev. John J. Flanagan, S.J., has become recognized nationally as a reference work on matters pertaining to the philosophy and ethics of medical practice.
2. Some of his writings for our journal have become part of the *Medico-Moral Problems* series of Father Gerald Kelly, S.J. — an accessible and handy moral guide of booklets that are a must in any busy Catholic doctor's library.
3. THE THOMAS LINACRE AWARD has been instituted to stimulate the Catholic physician to publish nationally his scientific observations that prove the veracity of morally sound medicine.
4. The transmission of information nationally on the need of, the reason for, and the manner of forming a Guild has resulted in a dramatic growth in the number of Guilds existing throughout the United States.

Elsewhere in this issue you will read the accurate and shocking appraisal of the Catholic physician in England today, prepared by Dr. John Muccigrosso. Dr. John E. Ryan's publications have been used as a reference. When the latter sat in at the Executive Board meeting in New York this summer, he remarked: "If we in England had had such an organization as you have in America, we would not have government medicine today."

We look forward to having all Guilds represented at the winter Board Meeting of the Federation in Philadelphia, December 7 and 8.

WILLIAM J. EGAN, M.D.